

USAID/MADAGASCAR

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

According to the World Health Organization, 8% to 10% of Madagascar's total population have physical and cognitive disabilities, with a large majority of people being under 25. Disabled people face cultural and social constraints which limit their participation as full citizens.

As most of them belong to the poorer segment of the society, they cannot have access either to the scarce available services, because of their high costs, or to information on services. Moreover, the information on the existing services is not appropriately disseminated. Public institutions lack the financial and technical capacity to provide the appropriate services to people with disabilities.

So far there is no national policy to address the issues of people with disabilities and very little awareness about those issues. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, only one PVO (Handicap International) has undertaken an awareness-raising campaign at the national level. While the donor's community provides very little assistance to people with disabilities, the NGOs and CSOs¹ (mainly religious and social welfare organizations) are more involved in activities designed to address their needs.

PROPOSED ACTION PLAN

Given its limited resources and the nature of its program, and with respect to the constraints facing the Malagasy disabled people, USAID/Madagascar could effectively support two of the Agency's objectives, as stated in the USAID Disability Policy Paper:

- to increase awareness of issues that affect people with disabilities, both within USAID programs and in host countries, and,
- to engage other U.S. government agencies, host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in fostering a climate of nondiscrimination against people with disabilities.

1. In order to institutionalize attention to issues concerning people with disabilities, the Mission will :

- ▶ to the extent feasible and appropriate, consult with appropriate organizations and individuals to ensure that the concerns and needs of people with physical and cognitive disabilities are considered under the relevant objectives of its program;
- ▶ consult with the partners, contractors and grantees in the relevant areas of its program (child survival, reproductive health, family planning, food security, population, human rights, microfinance) to ensure that people with disabilities have access to USAID-funded activities;

¹Civil Society Organizations

- ▶ as part of its work under the New Partnership Initiative, identify and develop relationship with NGOs and/or CSOs interested in the concerns of people with disabilities;
- ▶ work with those organizations, as appropriate, to ensure that the rights of the person with disabilities are respected;
- ▶ to extent feasible, consult with the host country government to foster an enabling regulatory environment and to establish quality standards for addressing issues concerning people with disabilities;
- ▶ help disseminate the information on services available to disabled people through the existing mechanisms (multidonor meetings, USG inter-agencies meetings, newsletters, etc.).

2. In order to build capacity to promote the integration of disability issues into programming within the Mission, USAID/Madagascar will

- ▶ provide training on programming for people with disabilities to the relevant staff members, using the training mechanisms developed by the Agency, and
- ▶ share the relevant information and training materials with its partners, and encourage them to take the concerns and needs of disabled people into account.

3. In order to contribute to the overall assessment of the extent and quality of USAID disability activities, the Mission will work with the Disability Team to determine the best mechanism to keep the Agency apprised of the implementation of its disability action plan.